

Application No. 09/851,895
Response dated October 15, 2004
Reply to Office Communication of October 12, 2004

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Withdrawn) An integrated hamper/laundry basket comprising:
a substantially solid rectangular structure having therein:
 - (a) means for the selectable slidable receipt of one or more vertical partitions to thereby separate the hamper/laundry basket into a plurality of compartments into which respectively different types of laundry may be separated at the point of deposit of such articles into the hamper/laundry basket; and
 - (b) void space within each lateral wall of said structure that does not exceed two-thirds of the area of each wall.
2. (Withdrawn) The hamper/laundry basket as recited in Claim 1 in which said vertical lateral walls thereof include a multiplicity of apertures, having an aesthetically pleasing geometry and sufficient size, to assist in the aeration of clothing within the hamper/laundry basket, said apertures thereby defining void space of at least one-third of the area of each of said lateral walls.
3. (Withdrawn) The hamper/laundry basket as recited in Claim 2, further comprising a selectably attachable cover thereof press-fittably securable to a circumferential upper mouth of the basket.

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4. (Currently amended) An integrated hamper/laundry basket in the nature of substantially rectangular structure, said basket comprising:

(a) means for the selectable slidable receipt of one or more vertical partitions to thereby separate the hamper/laundry basket into a plurality of compartments into which respectively different laundry types may be separated at the time and point of deposit thereof into said basket, said solid rectangular structure including four vertical lateral walls; and

(b) apertures substantially uniformly disposed within each lateral sidewall of said structure, an aggregate of all areas of said apertures within each lateral wall not exceeding a range of between about not less than one-third and about not more than two-thirds of each of the entire area of each lateral wall,

whereby said apertures comprises a size and area sufficient to permit the aeration of clothing within said basket without detracting from the structural integrity thereof.

5. (Original) The hamper/laundry basket as recited in Claim 4, further comprising:

a selectably attachable and detachable cover thereof, press-fittably securable to a circumferential upper mouth of said substantially solid rectangular structure.